

**What is claimed is:**

1           1.       A method of identifying and tracking the time of use of a set of a plurality of drinking  
2           cups, each of said drinking cups comprising a cup body and a cup lid adapted to be securely  
3           fastenable to said cup body and having an opening through which a liquid within said cup  
4           body is dispensed, said method comprising:

5                   (a)     providing a set of a plurality of drinking cups;

6                   (b)     providing each of said plurality of drinking cups with one unique identifying  
7           indicia, said one unique identifying indicia being selected from a first sequential pattern of  
8           indicia composed of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia, in such a manner that each  
9           of said plurality of drinking cups can be easily identified and distinguished from one another;

10                  (c)     associating each unique identifying indicia with a unique time of use;

11                  (d)     distributing each of said plurality of drinking cups provided with one unique  
12           identifying indicia at a time corresponding to said unique time of use;

13                  (e)     tracking each of said plurality of drinking cups thus distributed to determine  
14           its time of use, and

15                  (f)     visually monitoring said set of plurality of drinking cups to determine whether  
16           any of the plurality of drinking cups is missing from said set.

1           2.       The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said cup body of each of said  
2           plurality of drinking cups is provided with one of said plurality of first unique identifying  
3           indicia.

1           3.       The method in accordance with claim 1, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2           indicia consists of a first collection of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia and a  
3           second collection of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia, said second collection  
4           being identical to said first collection, and wherein said cup body is provided with one of said  
5           plurality of first unique indicia from said first collection and said cup lid is provided with an  
6           identical one of said plurality of first unique indicia from said second collection.

1           4.       The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2       indicia is composed of a series of unique identifying indicia selected from the group  
3       consisting of a series of numbers, a series of alphabet letters, a series of letters which spell  
4       a name, a series of related cartoon characters, the days of the week, and a series of geometric  
5       shapes, symbols or designs.

1           5.       The method in accordance with claim 1, further comprising a second sequential  
2       pattern of unique indicia, said second sequential pattern of unique indicia composed of a  
3       plurality of second unique identifying indicia which are different from said plurality of first  
4       unique identifying indicia, and wherein each of said plurality of drinking cups is provided  
5       with one unique identifying indicia selected from said plurality of second unique identifying  
6       indicia of said second sequential pattern of unique indicia.

1           6.       The method in accordance with claim 5, wherein said second sequential pattern of  
2       indicia is composed of a series unique identifying indicia selected from the group consisting  
3       of a series of numbers, a series of alphabet letters, a series of letters which spell a name, a  
4       series of related cartoon characters, the days of the week, and a series of geometric shapes,  
5       symbols or designs.

1           7.       The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2       indicia is printed on adhesive labels, each of said adhesive labels being adapted for  
3       application onto each of said plurality of cup bodies and said cup lids.

1           8.       The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2       indicia is machine molded into each of said plurality of cup bodies and into each of said cup  
3       lids.

1           9.       The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2       indicia is inscribed by etching onto each of said plurality of cup bodies and into each of said  
3       cup lids.

1           10.     A method of identifying and tracking the time of use of a set of a plurality of baby  
2       bottles, each of said baby bottles comprising a bottle body and a bottle lid adapted to be  
3       securely fastenable to said bottle body and having an opening through which a liquid within  
4       said bottle body is dispensed, said method comprising:

5               (a)     providing a set of a plurality of baby bottles;

6               (b)     providing each of said plurality of baby bottles with one unique identifying  
7       indicia, said one unique identifying indicia being selected from a first sequential pattern of  
8       indicia composed of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia, in such a manner that each  
9       of said plurality of baby bottles can be easily identified and distinguished from one another;

10              (c)     associating each unique identifying indicia with a unique time of use;

11              (d)     distributing each of said plurality of baby bottles provided with one unique  
12       identifying indicia at a time corresponding to said unique time of use;

13              (e)     tracking each of said plurality of baby bottles thus distributed to determine  
14       its time of use, and

15              (f)     visually monitoring said set of plurality of baby bottles to determine whether  
16       any of the plurality of baby bottles is missing from said set.

1           11.     The method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said bottle body of each of said  
2       plurality of baby bottles is provided with one of said plurality of first unique identifying  
3       indicia.

1           12.     The method in accordance with claim 10, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2           indicia consists of a first collection of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia and a  
3           second collection of a plurality of first unique identifying indicia, said second collection  
4           being identical to said first collection, and wherein said bottle body is provided with one of  
5           said plurality of first unique indicia from said first collection and said bottle lid is provided  
            with an identical one of said plurality of first unique indicia from said second collection.

1           13.     The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2           indicia is composed of a series of unique identifying indicia selected from the group  
3           consisting of a series of numbers, a series of alphabet letters, a series of letters which spell  
4           a name, a series of related cartoon characters, the days of the week, and a series of geometric  
5           shapes, symbols or designs.

1           14.     The method in accordance with claim 10, further comprising a second sequential  
2           pattern of unique indicia, said second sequential pattern of unique indicia composed of a  
3           plurality of second unique identifying indicia which are different from said plurality of first  
4           unique identifying indicia, and wherein each of said plurality of baby bottles is provided with  
5           one unique identifying indicia selected from said plurality of second unique identifying  
6           indicia of said second sequential pattern of unique indicia.

1           15.     The method in accordance with claim 14, wherein said second sequential pattern of  
2           indicia is composed of a series unique identifying indicia selected from the group consisting  
3           of a series of numbers, a series of alphabet letters, a series of letters which spell a name, a  
4           series of related cartoon characters, the days of the week, and a series of geometric shapes,  
5           symbols or designs.

1           16.     The method in accordance with claim 3, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2           indicia is printed on adhesive labels, each of said adhesive labels being adapted for  
3           application onto each of said plurality of bottle bodies and said bottle lids.

1        17.     The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2        indicia is machine molded into each of said plurality of bottle bodies and into each of said  
3        bottle lids.

1        18.     The method in accordance with claim 12, wherein said first sequential pattern of  
2        indicia is inscribed by etching onto each of said plurality of bottle bodies and into each of  
3        said bottle lids.